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JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Thursday - 23 March 1972

1. (Confidential - JMM) [redacted] Office of Security, and I met with Representative Lester Wolff (D., N. Y.) and his Administrative Assistant, Robert Owens, in response to Wolff's request for information about the drug traffic in Southeast Asia. We emphasized the absurdity of certain allegations concerning Air America, and explained in detail the measures being followed by Air America to prevent drug smuggling. [redacted] answered a number of Wolff's questions about the patterns of drug traffic in the area, and we explained efforts being made through various U. S. channels to jack up the local authorities to adopt more stringent measures. Wolff accepted our condition that the discussion be "off the record" and apparently was satisfied with the results.

2. (Unclassified - GLC) Mr. Eric Freedman, in the office of Representative Charles B. Rangel (D., N.Y.), called and asked if there was a "CIA base at Long Tieng." I told him that Long Tieng had been described as a CIA base by the press but it was basically a facility for General Vang Pao's forces although there was some U.S. contact with and support given to the General. When I asked him what prompted his inquiry he said the Congressman was interested in a story put out in May 1971 by Flora Lewis involving statements by Allen Ginsberg alleging that illegal traffic in drugs was taking place in the presence of Agency people. I told Freedman that if he was concerned about the drug allegations these had been flatly denied by the Director. He said this was not his concern and said what he was interested in is what CIA does in Long Tieng. I told him matters concerning our activities were reported to our CIA Subcommittees on the Hill and I would have to look into the matter before talking with him further.

3. (Secret - GLC) Hand-carried to Bill Woodruff, Senate Appropriations Committee staff, a copy of the "horseblanket" of the Agency budget. I also told Woodruff that [redacted] and I would like to get together with him some time next week (other than Monday) to talk about our presentation on the community budget. Woodruff said he would let me know tomorrow what day next week would be convenient for him.

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3. (Confidential - GLC) George Murphy, Joint Committee on Atomic Energy staff, called about an article which appeared in the New York Times of 12 March 1972 about a former CIA agent who served on Taiwan and claimed there was a "strong revolutionary potential" among the native Taiwanese. Murphy said he would be interested in anything we could tell him about this case. I told him I would look into it.

On the basis of information given me by Dr. Chamberlain, OSI, I advised Murphy there was no truth to the Washington Daily News article of 17 March 1972 indicating the U.S. had come up with evidence proving that Israel is a nuclear power.

4. (Secret - JMM) Talked with Ed Braswell, Chief Counsel, Senate Armed Services Committee, and reaffirmed that the Agency took no position on the question of whether responsibility for administering the payment of irregulars in Laos could best be passed to Defense or State. I did emphasize our strong feeling that in the national interest the program not be allowed to suffer for bureaucratic or political reasons in Washington--that the national interest was involved and that for both practical and moral reasons we could ill afford to make life any more complicated than necessary for the hard-pressed irregulars, especially in view of their critical military situation at this time.

Braswell said there were no plans for a confirmation hearing this week for General Walters, but it was possible they could schedule something for Thursday of next week (30 March).

5. (Unclassified - JMM) Called Miss Ward, in Senator Stennis' (D., Miss.) office, to say that we were ready to bring over some photographs which we had mounted for the Senator at his convenience and would like to show them to him personally to be sure they were what he wanted. She said she would let us know.

6. (Internal Use Only - JMM) Called Walter C. Minnick, of the White House staff, to explain that [redacted] and I were going to brief Representative Lester Wolff (D., N.Y.) in response to his request for information on Air America involvement in the drug traffic. Minnick thought [redacted] was exactly the man for the job, and recommended that we point out not only the Agency record with Air America but also the other steps we had taken to assist with coping with drug traffic in that area. 25X1

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